A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, October 27. 1711.

I Took some Freedom in my last, with those Gentlemen, who thinking themselves mighty Wise and mighty Politick, are for giving the *whole Spanish Monarchy* to King *Charles*, notwithstanding his being Emperor of *Germany*: I have been the Courser in my Remarks upon this which I call a Blunder in Politicks, because of the Obstinacy of those who adhere to it, and because of the Undoubted Authority I have of King *William*'s Judgment directly against them; so that either the King must be esteem'd a FOOL, or they must be condemn'd by all that read it, to be FOOLS: To enforce this, past all possibility of Objection, I gave you the IXth. Article of the Treaty of Partition, where the securing the *Spanish* Monarchy from the Person, *whoever it should be*, of an Emperor of *Germany*, is made equally Essential to the Meaning of that Treaty, as the securing it from the Person of the King of *France*; and for the Sake of those who may see this, and might not see that, I here repeat it.

If the most Serene Arch-Duke should die without Issue, either before or after the Death of the Catholick King, his Share which is hereby assigned to him, shall come to

to such Male Child of the Emperor, or of the King of the Romans, except the King of the Romans, *MARK THAT*, as his Imperial Majesty shall assign it to; but on Condition that the said Part shall never be United, nor belong to the Person of him, who shall be Emperor, or King of the Romans, or is become one of the other, be it by Succession, Will, Contract of Marriage, Donation, Exchange, Cession, Appeal, Revolt, or otherwise; as in like manner, the said Share of the Serene Arch-Duke shall never come, or belong to the Person of a Prince, that is or shall be King, or Dauphine of *FRANCE*.

I know it follows in the Hearts, for I have it from the Mouths of several of these Gentlemen; *What is the meaning of this Man's Discourse?* What does he drive at? *Who shall the* Spanish *Monarchy be given to?* ——I'll lay a Wager, *says one*, he brings it Home to King *Philip* at last —— He is Writing for the New Schemes I'll warrant you, *says another*.

Whenever this Wager is laid, it will be lost —— What I am for is plain; I am in this, as I desire to be in every Thing I do, or say, or write in the World, *viz.* Entirely without Disguises; he that speaks ungrateful Truths in defiance of the World, can never be call'd an Hypocrite; as the Incomparable *Hudibras* says;

He that Fights, or beats out's Brains,
The Devil's in him if he feigns.

I that am Writing what is very likely to please no-body; that stand at Bay against the Insults of both Parties; and dash now on *Scylla*, anon upon *Charybdis*; that am defending an absent deceased Name, which some slight, some abuse, and the best of you too much forget: That Reproach some of you with Ingratitude, some of you with Insulting, and all of you with Injustice to his Memory —— What part of Hypocrisie can you charge me with? Pray who is it he writes to please, that knows he shall grate upon, pinch, or displease every-body? For whose Reward is this done? Has the King any more Bounties to give, any more envyed Favours to bestow on me? —— Any more Smiles to Animate me by? ——No, no,— but I abhor turning round from Point to Point, and forgetting when he is Dead, the Wisdom, the Prudence, the Anxiety which he exerted for us when alive,

And after all, you will Recognize the Politicks, the Justice, the Necessity of his Contrivance, by Embracing the same Measures; and this I cannot but Insult over you a little for, let the Coat fit who it will, if you Quarrel at the Taylor, *as was said lately in another Case*, he must fight you with his Sheers.

But to the Question, who will this Mad-Man give *Spain* to? What will he do with it? Will he fall in with the Times, and give it *Philip* V.?——I state the Question thus, because I see how the Vein runs, and how Things are carried on among the Modern Politicians of the Times, and this is the Way you all state it.

I answer'd directly, NO, not to King *Philip*; because I am for giving it WHOLE to no-body; I am also of Opinion, it would never be the Interest of King *Philip* to take it WHOLE, and that he would be an easier Prince, *if King of* Spain, to be without the *Italian* Dominions of *Spain* than with them, but of that hereafter; I'll speak to Things as I go.

But that having started the Question for you myself, it is but Rational that I should answer it myself, and tell you what I mean, by all this.

My Meaning is this, That in all our Debates, I wonder much to see the wild Discourses about Peace —— Some are for this kind, and some for that, and People are so warm about it, they will not tell us what kind of Peace they will, or would have —I must indeed be so just to them, that I believe many who talk much of a Peace, and against it too, neither know how we must carry

carry on the War, nor what Peace to ask for.

Some tell us only of carrying on the War in general, *a la Cavalier*, that we are in Condition enough, have Funds enough, can raise what Money we please, and we must carry on the War, right or wrong, till we have pull'd the Old Fox out of his Den——say they—I hope what they say of Funds, and Ability to raise Money may be true——But I am easily convinc'd those People who speak so, know nothing at all of it.

Some tell us indeed of a New Project among honest People, to carry on the War, whether the Government will or no; for if our People, *say they*, leave their Confederates in the Lurch, we will raise Money Yearly by Subscription among our Friends, *and supply the* Dutch *with it*, to carry on the War without them; and a Gentleman speaking of this with great warmth one Day, as a Thing very considerable—— *Ay Sir*, says he, *And we will do it effectually, and let the World see we are able to carry on the War, and that it is not for want of Money that a Separate Peace is carried on, and I'll pay* 10 *l. a Year to it myself, if ever such a Thing comes on*; my Friend is suppos'd worth about 50 Thousand Pounds, and if every Man worth so much, should Subscribe 10 *l.* a Year, and so in Proportion, no doubt it might raise huge Summs, and the *Dutch* would be mightily supported—— Which is enough to say to it.

But if you are so *free* and so *able*, for both are necessary in such a Case, pray, Gentlemen, Why do you not offer it at Home, to take away the Pretence of any Treating, and to prevent running the Nation into Debts and Extremeties——— *Alas for the Dutch!* When they come to depend upon, or to want what private Zeal would furnish from hence to carry on the War; and you may know the *Dutch* better if you please, than to think they will trust to it.

But what need of all this Discourse; I am perswaded there is not an Inch of Difference among us, about this Thing, and that both Tories and Whigs agree with me in one Thing, let us have A GOOD PEACE, when ye will, the sooner the better, and no Peace till we have A GOOD PEACE; he that is for making a Peace, that is not a Good Peace, is for ending the War to begin it again, is for selling us to the *French*, and would sell us to the Devil: If then I should prove, that all of you drive at one End, why should it be hard to bring it to be carryed on by the same Means? I shall make some Essay at this difficult Task in my next.

But in the mean Time, a Word to this foolish Scandal of our Ruining the Peace; on one Side (*say ye*) by giving *Spain* to King *Philip*, and on the other Hand (*say I*) by giving *Spain* to the Emperor.

There is but one Thing that can make the Notion of King *Philip*'s being left King of *Spain*, tollerable to any body's Thoughts, and that is this; That the Interest of *Spain* being inconsistent with *France*, as a Kingdom; the Antipathies of the Nation invincible, and the Interest of the *English* and *Dutch* in many Articles, the same with that of *Spain*; King *Philip* will be in a few Years, as much a *Spaniard* by Interest, as he is a *French Man* by Birth; and if so, he will always endeavour to be independent of *France*, because he must, in Right of his Subjects, be oblig'd to keep the *French* at as great a distance as he can.

Now my Note upon this part of it is; that that tho' there may be enough in this Thought, to make giving part of the *Spanish* Monarchy to *Philip*, tolerable, yet this very Thing makes it intollerable, to think of giving it to him all, or indeed to any body else.

The Medium of which, if what I have already said openly enough, this War must end it, *viz. A Partition*; it is not for me to say how, or which Way.

This is not upon Supposition of a *Partition* in Favour of this King or that King, but in Favour of whom you please, and there-

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in, I own, I am not so terrified with the Thoughts of Dividing some part of *Spain* to this, and some to that, especially considering that I see no probability of getting it by Force, at least, not yet, into our own Possession, nor which is worse, how we should bestow it with Safety, if we had it, but by a *Partition*.

But I'll go upon a Supposition also on the other side; If not *Spain* to King *Philip* V. to who then? Truly this is a remote Question; but there are among us those, who pretend to Answer it. and pretending to have Descent of Blood take place in your Thoughts; they say none stands so fair as the Duke of *Savoy*; now I would fain have any Man tell me, if the Duke of *Savoy* should have the whole *Spanish* Monarchy, What better should we be? For he would be 10 Times more at the Mercy of *France*, by having *Savoy* and *Piedmont*, &c. added to his Dominions, than King *Philip* would be, because of their Bordering immediately upon *France*; if you gave him *Old Spain* only, and the rest of *Italy* to the Emperor, you make him, the Emperor, too strong, and open an Eternal Door of War, between *France* and the *Empire*, because of the addition of *Savoy* and *Piedmont*; but if you will divide the *Spanish* Monarchy at all, it seems it must be so divided, as to weaken the Power of it, and to keep it depending, as it used to be, not upon *France*, but upon the Confederates; if this can be done, no Man needs be concern'd to whom it is given, and this is easie enough to do, without any need of a New War to settle it.

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